Alex Way

Ms. Fanelli

E Block Honors US History II

Immigration Assignment

I come from a predominantly Irish household, where immigrants came over directly from Ireland not so long ago. My father’s side is kind of complicated coming from a bunch of different nationalities, but in the end he is 50% Irish. My mother is 7/8’s Irish and has direct routes from Ireland. She also has some French in her too.

My mother’s grandparents came from Ireland during the potato famine and they settled in the Greater Boston area. My grandmother grew up in Dorchester with her 7 siblings; all brought up under strict Irish Catholic parents. They were not wealthy growing up but they were all very disciplined children. They all worked at a young age for their family. The eldest son, Jack, actually dropped out of Yale and paid for his younger brother, Joe, to attend BC High in the early 1950’s. My grandmother’s parents were both very hardworking people. Her father was a teacher and her mother was a nurse. My grandmother, Fran, eventually met an Irish/French man from Worcester by the name of Joe Richer, my grandfather. His family came over from Ireland and France and settled in Worcester where they were brought up poor. My grandfather always tells me how they didn’t have a toilet in their own house or running water. My grandfather’s parents met in the city of Worcester where they were both working in factories. Eventually my grandparents settled in Milton where my mother and her 4 siblings grew up.

My father’s side however is a little more complex. His family derives from all over Europe. Germany, Ireland, and England are the major countries where my father’s family goes back to. My father’s grandfather actually came over from Ireland seeking opportunities for he and his wife. That is the only direct immigrant that I was able to find from my father’s side. Eventually my father’s parents met and they settled in Hingham where my father grew up.